

# Black Hawks Hit Road Sept. 2

Following Friday's season opener at home against Madison High, the Black Hawks travel to Enka on Sept. 2.

The Jets, led by first-year head coach Rex Wells, are also attempting to rebuild their football program. Only seven starters return from last year's 4-5-1 squad. Enka will also have a new quarterback, Mark McIntosh, and will operate out of the pro-I offense.

With only three starters returning on defense, the Jets will need to score early and often to remain competitive.

The going gets considerably tougher the following week when the Black Hawks host 4-A powerhouse Reynolds on Sept. 9.

The defending Mountain Athletic Conference champions, 10-2 in 1987, return 14 starters and are a pre-season favorite to repeat as champions. Although starting a new quarterback, the Rockets still have All-Western tailback Keith Battle in the backfield. Battle carried for 1,324 yards and 20 touchdowns last year running out of the Notre Dame box.

The Sept. 9 date with the Rockets promises to provide a character test for the young Black Hawks.

On Sept. 16, the Hawks travel to Asheville High, another program seeking to rebuild following four straight losing seasons.

The Cougars are once again led by their former head coach Lou Fogle. With only eight starters returning from last year's 4-6 squad, Fogle is looking to the future in 1988.

The Cougars will rely on the talents of quarterback Antonio Greene, a 6'2" senior who can scramble in the backfield. The Black Hawks will need a good effort against Asheville to recover from the Reynolds Rocket attack.

Following a Sept. 23 open date, the Black Hawks travel to Erwin for a final matchup before entering conference play.

The Warriors, winners of the MAC 3-A title for the past three seasons, are expected to battle Pisgah for the title once again this year. Erwin boasts an experienced front line with nine seniors. The pre-season question mark is at quarterback where Terry Humes, a 5'8", 160-pound junior, will have the starting assignment.

Humes is a converted tailback as can be expected to make liberal use of the run.

The Black Hawks travel to West Henderson on Oct. 7 to open conference play.

The Falcons are led by former Enka head coach Danny Shook and return nine lettermen from last year's 8-3 squad. This is also a rebuilding year for the Falcons, but experienced players hold most of the so-called "skill" positions. The Falcons will operate out of the Notre Dame box.

With a new head coach and new offense, the Falcons are a big pre-season question mark.

The Black Hawks finally return home on Oct. 14 to host defending conference champion Brevard. The Blue Devils, winners of 29 games over the past three seasons, will be a strong favorite to repeat as champions in 1988.

Brevard will have junior Jamie Howell at quarterback and although as yet untested, Howell figures to be seasoned by the time he reaches Reeves Stadium. Running backs Charles Robinson and Dean Lytle can be expected to test the Black Hawk defense in what promises to be one of the season's toughest contests for the Black Hawks.

It gets easier the following week when the Hawks host T.C. Roberson in the homecoming game. The Rams are in the process of rebuilding following a disastrous 2-9 season in 1987. Roberson will have to rely heavily on the running of fullback Chris Jones. If the



ROBERT KOENIG PHOTO

Head Coach, Tom McIntyre, watches the Black Hawks in Friday night scrimmage action.

Black Hawks are, to achieve respectability this season, this is a must-win game.

The Black Hawks will also have to win the following week on the road when they meet Franklin. The Panthers are also rebuilding with a new head coach after

posting a 1-9 record last season.

Led by rookie head coach Bill Morgan, the Panthers will have an experienced backfield, but the defense is suspect as the season opens. The Hawks will have to halt Panther fullback Chuck Nicholls in order to return home as winners.

The Hawks close out the regular season at home on Nov. 4 against Owen. The Warhorses are looking to return to playoff action in '88 after a disappointing 6-4 season last year.

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The Black Hawk awaits the season from his new perch.

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